

City of Deer Park  
City Council Meeting  
Municipal Building  
October 26, 2015

President Comer opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer. The Clerk read the roll. Mrs. Hedger, Mr. Lehane, Ms. Newsom, Mr. Perin, Mr. Rapp, Mr. Tassell, Mr. Tolliver.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Hedger motioned to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2015 City Council Meeting. Mr. Tolliver seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Public Comment – Citizens and Guests –**

*Scott Weiland – 4199 Matson Avenue*

Mr. Weiland asked if an in ground swimming pool is prohibited in Deer Park. President Comer stated that it is not prohibited. Mr. Weiland asked why the building permit does not have a place on it for roofing specifications and asked that an addendum be made and mentioned that Hamilton County has a permit which includes roofing specifications. Mr. Berens stated that he will take it under advisement to see what can be done. Mr. Weiland also is concerned about his neighbor across the street possibly running a used car dealership out of their house. Chief Schlie stated that they have already talked to that neighbor directly. Mayor Donnellon mentioned to Mr. Weiland that he stopped by Mr. Weiland's home and he wasn't home but did discuss with Mr. Berens the recent concerns that Mr. Weiland had about the speeding on Matson.

*Martha Dew – 4137 Orchard Lane*

Mrs. Dew asked three questions of council:

- *Why are there not Deer Park Police Officers living in Deer Park?*

President Comer and Mr. Tolliver both responded that it is unconstitutional to force an officer to live in the city where they work and that it went all the way to the Supreme Court. Mrs. Hedger noted that officers work with students that express an interest in becoming a police officer.

- *Why are the council meetings not advertised on the sign in front of the city building?*

Ms. Newsom responded that she puts together a newsletter in Ward 1, which Mrs. Dew lives in. In the newsletter it mentions when the city council meetings are held. Mrs. Newsom invited Mrs. Dew to contact her anytime with any concerns.

- *Why don't we have a neighborhood watch program?*

Chief Schlie stated he is all for a neighborhood watch program and welcomed Mrs. Dew and her neighbors to help. Mrs. Hedger recalled that she helped run a neighborhood watch a few years ago and even produced a newsletter and only had 4 people come to the meetings. Mrs. Dew is also concerned about the recent drug overdoses taking place on her street.

*Amy Ruddick – 4386 Matson Avenue*

Ms. Ruddick stated that she discussed forming a neighborhood watch program with her neighbors. She feels as though the Deer Park Police can advertise it on Facebook to gain the interest of all citizens. Mr. Lehane and Mrs. Hedger both announced that they would like to help with the neighborhood watch program. A sign-up sheet was passed around and those interested can give their contact information.

*Kathy Downs – 4380 Matson Avenue*

Ms. Downs wanted to talk about the shooting that took place in front of an apartment on Matson last Tuesday where a young man was killed. 7 people who lived with the victim were discharged from the apartment by the landlord. These 7 young adults are now living in a house across the street from Ms. Downs. Ms. Downs stated that although her heart goes out to these lost and somewhat homeless

young people who have lost their friend, she is concerned and frightened by the fact that there is drug activity still happening across from her home. There is potential drug activity with traffic all day and night at this house. Mr. Lehane advised to write down the plate numbers. Ms. Downs did express that she feels vulnerable and mentioned that there are renters on the top floor of this house and that the owner's daughter lives there too. She feels that it's not just the new residents causing the issues. Chief Schlie stated that he and the police department are keenly aware of where the young people moved to and there is a greater police presence there. Chief Schlie stated that he and Mayor Donnellon attended the prayer service for the victim. All have been advised that violations of the law will not be tolerated and asked the residents to be the eyes as the police cannot be everywhere. Mr. Lehane noted that he lives on Oakwood and sees drug activity and agreed with Mrs. Hedger that it has become a problem everywhere. Chief Schlie encouraged direct dialogue from the community. Mr. Rapp asked if there is something in the housing code stating maximum occupancy and a certain amount of unrelated people allowed to be living under the same roof. Mr. Berens noted that he will look into this.

*Doug Purnell – 4380 Matson Avenue*

Mr. Purnell thanked the police for their quick response to the recent homicide. Mr. Berens stated that he is excited that there is once again an interest in the neighborhood watch program and recalled that he helped the neighborhood watch program in Deer Park from 1979 for about 20 years. Mr. Tolliver said that the residents in attendance tonight are "a breath of fresh air" and welcomed all. Mayor Donnellon added that we need to work together because we all want the same resolution.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

### **Safety Committee**

#### **Homicide Investigation Update**

Chief Schlie stated that he cannot comment on the details of the investigation however he stated that it was a really bad week in the city. Every officer in the department worked on this case and all went above and beyond. A warrant was issued within 6 hours and a suspect was in custody in 12 hours. This is the first murder in Deer Park in 40 years.

### **Legislative and Finance Committee**

#### **Hylant – Ohio Plan Agreement**

Mrs. Hedger referred to Mr. Berens for information on the Hylant – Ohio Plan Agreement. Mr. Berens announced that this is an annual renewal and recommended that we approve. Mrs. Hedger motioned to approve and was seconded by Mr. Perin. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Safety Committee**

#### **Deer Park Silverton Joint Fire Department Fire Board**

Mr. Lehane announced that Golf Manor got the contract with Columbia Township to cover their extended areas. Mr. Lehane will have more information about other topics after the next meeting.

### **Deer Park Police Department**

Mr. Perin thanked the police for a job well done in getting the suspect in the homicide investigation.

### **Public Works Committee**

#### **Redmont Avenue Update**

Mr. Tassell reported that the work is not completely approved. The contractor is coming back to fix and follow through with repairs.

### **MacNicholas Ave. Storm Sewer Repair**

Mr. Tassell advised that the work on the MacNicholas Avenue has not started yet however it will begin soon.

## **Leaf Collection**

Mr. Lehane announced that it is time for leaf collection. Please put leaves in the grass between the sidewalk and curb. Please do not put them in the gutter as not to cause flooding.

## **Report of Special Committees / Boards**

**Park Board** – Mr. Perin announced that planning has begun for the 2016 Days in the Park Festival.

## **Citizen Questions or Comments on Agenda Thus Far –**

*Kathy Downs – 4380 Matson Avenue*

Ms. Downs asked what the actions are for following up for the Community Watch Program. Chief Schlie stated she is to follow up directly with him.

## **Correspondence (Clerk of Council) & Miscellaneous - None**

**New Business** – None

## **Reports from other City Officials**

**Treasurer** – None

**Law Director** – None

**Auditor** – None

**Safety Service Director** – Mr. Berens announced that the clothes closet, run by Communserv and housed at the Howard building, needs gently used clothes and coats for men, women and children. There will also be a food barrel in the city building near the holidays for canned goods donations. All donations stay in the Deer Park City School District. If not for these donations some children would not have food for the holidays.

The Annual Chili Challenge is November 6<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. Reduced admission is given with canned goods donation.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Donnellon announced that on Halloween night students from Communserv will be going door to door for canned goods in lieu of candy to help needy families for the holidays.

- A wage increase to \$16.91 per hour for Linda Eads was made in effect on October 4, 2015 per contract after 6 months of completed employment.

- Mayor Donnellon thanked the police department for a great job on the homicide investigation.

## **Executive Session–RE: Regarding Labor Negotiations - Teamsters Local 100 and Pending Litigation**

At 7:57 pm, Mr. Perin motioned to retire to executive session regarding discussing Labor Negotiations - Teamsters Local 100 and Pending Litigation to include council members, Mr. Berens, Mr. Applegate, Mayor Donnellon, President Comer, Ms. Perin-Seitz, Mr. Helmes and Mr. Todd. Mrs. Hedger seconded the motion. Mrs. Hedger – yes, Mr. Lehane - yes, Ms. Newsom – yes, Mr. Perin - yes, Mr. Rapp - yes, Mr. Tassell – yes, Mr. Tolliver – yes. Motion carried.

Executive Session concluded at 8:07 pm

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Perin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lehane. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

---

Joseph W. Comer  
President of Council

---

Joanie Perin Seitz  
Clerk of Council